



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# Press Release

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## **Climate Action Team and Experts Discuss Strategies to Reduce Climate Change Emissions from Power Generators**

SACRAMENTO – The Climate Action Team held the final of five regional presentations in Sacramento to discuss the Climate Action Report released in April. Panelists and members of the working group discussed strategies to reduce climate change emissions, specifically from power generation, in order to meet the Governor's aggressive climate change emission reduction targets.

"As one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases, it's our moral responsibility to start implementing strategies to reduce climate change emissions here in California," said Dr. Alan C. Lloyd, former Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and chair of the Climate Action Team. "The consequences of climate change on California are significant and may become quite severe. These include an increased threat of wildfires, a decrease in the snowpack, damaged coastlines and an increase in air pollution, disease and pests."

The electricity sector is responsible for about 20 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, yet within it, the various utility groups are not required to meet the same emissions standards. While some are regulated by a state body, others are regulated locally according to non-standardized regulations and accounting practices. The panel today discussed the strategies recommended by the Climate Action Team to address the electricity sector as a whole, including the need for an electric sector carbon cap and equivalent efficiency, renewable and emission requirements on all electricity suppliers in the state.

"Last year the California Public Utilities Commission adopted a policy statement that would require that all Investor-Owned Utilities' long-term supplies have emissions that are at least as clean as a combined cycle natural gas plant," said PUC President Michael R. Peevey. "A statewide standard that would also encompass the municipal utilities is now the subject of legislation."

In June 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-03-05, establishing the most ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of any state or nation in the world. The Order directed Cal/EPA to lead a multi-agency effort to meet the targets, and to report on the progress toward those goals every two years.

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